AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

IN THE CLAIMS:

No amendments to the claims have been made in this response. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. (All claims listed):

1. (previously presented) A method of archiving and retrieving digital media items based on episodic memory of predefined distinct groups of one or more people the method comprising

receiving a user input identifying a group to which the user belongs;

receiving user archiving input: identifying a digital media item to be archived for the group, selecting zero or more group event types from a predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, selecting zero or more persons in the group, and selecting a time or time period;

generating index information using the received user archiving input;

storing the index information in association with the identified digital media item;

repeating the reception of user archiving input, the generation of the index information and the storing of the index information for a plurality of digital media items;

receiving a user retrieval input selecting or automatically selecting: zero or more group event types from the predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, zero or more persons in the group, and a time or time period; and

using the selections and the identified group to retrieve and output digital media items that match the selection.

2. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the user retrieval input comprises a user input from a different user identifying a group to which the different user belongs and the digital media items are retrieved using the group identified for the different user in the user retrieval input.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1 including defining the distinct groups of people, and defining group event types that are appropriate for members of the groups to distinguish episodic events memorable to the group.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1 including receiving said digital media item to be archived, and storing said digital media item in association with the index information.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1 including receiving a user archiving input identifying a digital media item as being associated with a memorable high point in the mind of the user.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the user retrieval input includes an input selecting memorable high points.

7. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the index information is generated to include an identification of a media type of the digital media item.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the user retrieval input includes an input identifying a media type, and digital media items are retrieved and output based on the identified media type.

9. (original) A method according to claim 1 including receiving a user archiving input identifying a plurality of digital media items and an input identifying the digital media items to be associated as perceived by the user, wherein the index information is generated to include the identified association.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9 wherein when digital media items are retrieved and output as a result of the user retrieval input, any digital media items having the identified association in the index information are automatically identified for retrieval and output.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the automatically identified digital media items are automatically retrieved and output.

12. (original) A method according to claim 10 including outputting a notification to a user that associated digital media items are available, and retrieving and outputting automatically identified digital media items in response to a user input.

13. (original) A method according to claim 1 including receiving a user request for automatic nostalgic retrieval, automatically generating an initial set of said selections, using the selections

to retrieve and output digital media items, automatically modifying one of the selections, using the modified selections to retrieve and output digital media items and repeating the modifying, and retrieval and output steps.

14. (previously presented) A user terminal for use in the archiving and retrieval of digital media items based on episodic memory of predefined distinct groups of one or more people, the terminal comprising:

user interface means for allowing a user to generate an archiving input: identifying a group to which the user belongs, identifying a digital media item to be archived for the group, selecting zero or more group event types from a predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, selecting zero or more persons in the group, and selecting a time or time period;

transmission means for transmitting the archiving input to a processing device for generating index information using the archiving input and for storing the index information in association with the identified item;

wherein said user interface means is adapted to allow a user to generate a retrieval input: identifying a group to which the user belongs, selecting zero or more group event types from the predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, selecting zero or more persons in the group, selecting a time or time period and identifying if retrieval is to be automatic; and said transmission means is adapted to transmit the retrieval input to the processing device to identify digital media items using the retrieval input;

the user terminal further including

receiving means for receiving any digital media items identified by the processing device;

and

a display for displaying the received digital media items.

15. (previously presented) A method of operating a terminal for use in the archiving and retrieval of digital media items based on episodic memory of predefined distinct groups of one or more people, the method comprising:

allowing a user to generate an archiving input: identifying a group to which the user belongs, identifying a digital media item to be archived for the group, selecting zero or more group event types from a predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, selecting zero or more persons in the group, and selecting a time or time period;

transmitting the archiving input to a processing device for generating index information using the archiving input, and for storing the index information in association with the identified item;

allowing a user to generate a retrieval input: identifying a group to which the user belongs, selecting zero or more group event types from the predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, selecting zero or more persons in the group, selecting a time or time period, and identifying if retrieval is to be automatic;

transmitting the retrieval input to the processing device to identify digital media items using the retrieval input;

receiving any digital media items identified by the processing device; and

displaying the received digital media items.

16. (original) A carrier medium storing processor readable and implementable code for controlling a processor to carry out the method of any one of claims 1 to 13 or 15.

17. (previously presented) Apparatus for archiving and retrieving digital media items based on episodic memory of predefined distinct groups of one or more people, the apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving a user input identifying a group to which the user belongs, and user archiving input: identifying a digital media item to be archived for the group, selecting zero or more group event types from a predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, selecting zero or more persons in the group, and selecting a time or time period;

generating means for generating index information using the received user archiving input;

storing means for storing the index information in association with the identified digital media item;

wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive a user retrieval input selecting or to automatically select: zero or more group event types from the predetermined plurality of group event types for the group, zero or more persons in the group, and a time or time period; and

the apparatus further includes retrieval means for using the selections and the identified group to retrieve and output digital media items that match the selections.

18. (original) Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive the user retrieval input from a different user identifying a group to which the different user belongs.

19. (original) Apparatus according to claim 17 including means for defining the distinct groups of people, and for defining group event types that are appropriate for members of the groups to distinguish episodic events memorable to the group.

20. (original) Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive said digital media items to be archived, and item storing means for storing said digital media item in association with the index information.

21. (original) Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive a user archiving input identifying a digital media item as being associated with a memorable high point in the mind of the user.

22. (original) Apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive a user retrieval input selecting memorable high points.

23. (original) Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said generating means is adapted to include an identification of a media type of the digital media item.

24. (original) Apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive a user retrieval input identifying a media type, and said retrieval means is adapted to retrieve and output digital media items based on the identified media type.

25. (original) Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said receiving means is adapted to receive the user archiving input identifying a plurality of digital media items to be sequenced as perceived by the user, and said generating means is adapted to generate the index information to include the identified sequences.

26. (original) Apparatus according to claim 25 wherein said retrieval means is adapted to retrieve all digital media items identified to be sequenced when one or more digital media items are selected for retrieval.

27. (original) Apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said receiving means receives a request for automatic nostalgic retrieval, said generating means is adapted to generate an initial set of selections and automatically modify one or more of the selections at a time in response to the request, said retrieval means is adapted to sequentially output digital media items retrieved using the generated and modified sets of selection.

28-46 (cancelled)

47-57 (withdrawn)